



Cambodia's Climate Change Issues

Climate impacts in Cambodia

About 77% of people rely on agriculture, forests, and fisheries for their daily livelihood

It is one of the countries vulnerable to the negative impact of climate such as flood, drought, irregular rainfall, debts, deforestation and loss of livelihood

Cambodia Loses More Than \$100 million due to Droughts



Climate impacts in Cambodia

Roughly 167,000 forced them to sell their land in order to pay for the debts as the crop yields are not productive

It also leads indigenous peoples to cut down the trees in order to be able to pay for the debts



Climate impacts in Cambodia

2015-2016, 18 provinces have been impacted by drought (about 2.5 million people) and it cost about 100 millions loss in dollars as their crops and mainly rice have been destroyed.



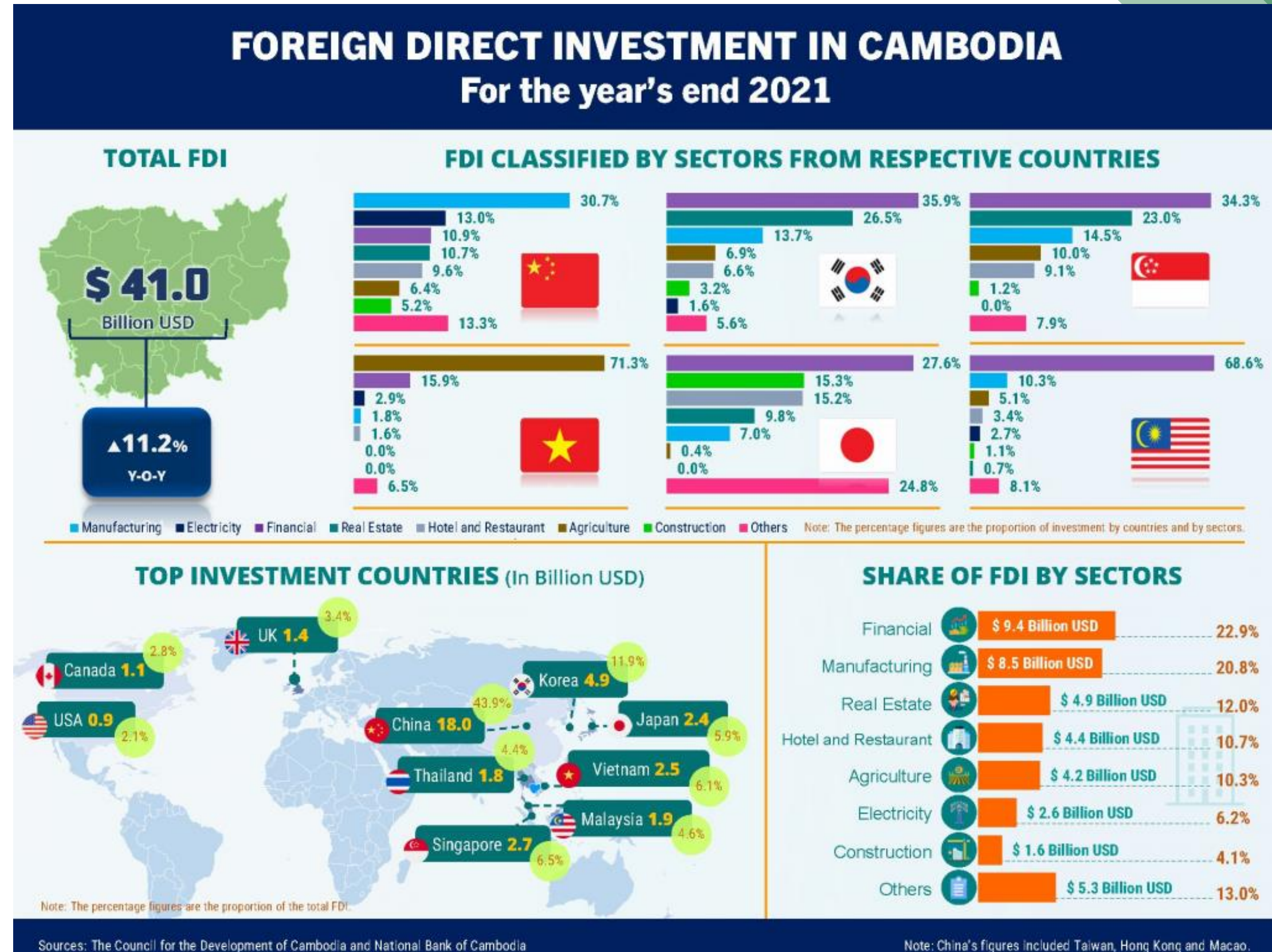
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2022: 14 provinces have been impacted by flooding (85,000 families)

Development projects are contributing to these impacts

- Large-scale ELCs (agribusiness, mining etc.)
- Energy sectors (hydro power dams, coal fired power plants etc.)



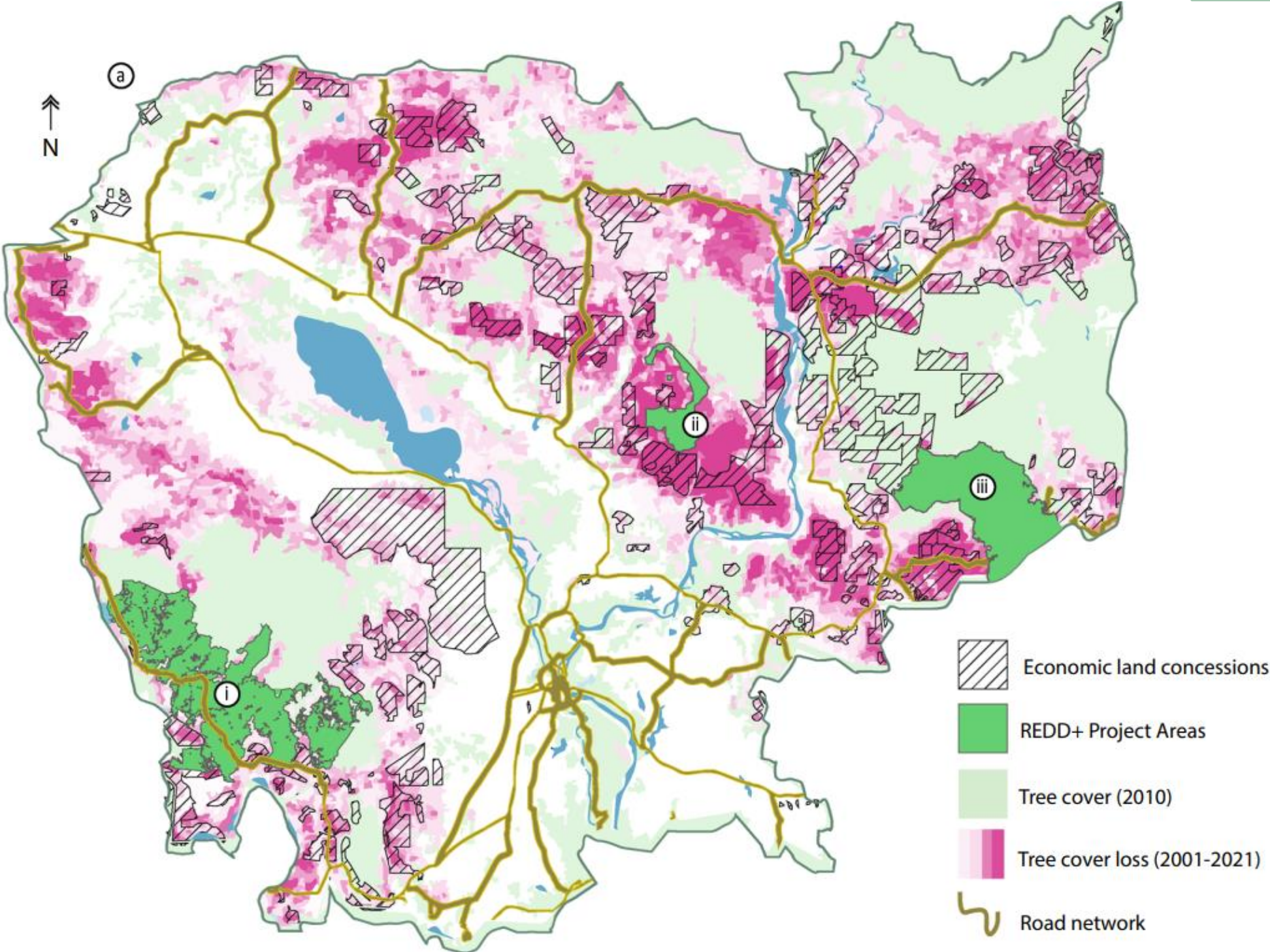
Large-scale agribusiness development and Economic Land Concession (often made through clearing of forest)

- ELCs covered 2.1 million hectares of forest land (dams, mining, agribusiness, etc.)
- Each company could lease up to 10,000 hectares (99 years but now 55 years)
- At least 297 local and international are operating



Logs illegally cut within Virachey National Park in Cambodia's Ratanakiri province, await transportation to Vietnam, February 2017. Environmental Investigation Agency

- 8.5 million hectares of the total country land forest area (46.86 percent)
- 7.3 millions hectares are protected area (Khmer times news) (30% of illegal logging)
- In 2012, Prime Minister Hun Sen issued sub-decree on new land concessions and promised a full review of existing ELCs But ELCs are still granting to tycoons and companies



Cause

Impact

Solution

ELCs

Climate
Change

Deforestation

Flooding
Drought

- Loss of livelihood
- Debt

Protect community
rights / land rights

- Reduce vulnerabilities
- Increase resilience

Energy plays important roles in supporting the rapid economic growth of Cambodia. Cambodia's energy supply is predominantly from hydropower (48.68 %) (11 dams) coal (31.39 %) and followed by diesel and fuel oil (3.07 %).

No.	Type of Generation	Installed Capacity (megawatts)		Proportion (2018, %)
		2017	2018	
1	Hydro	979.70	1329.70	48.64
2	Diesel and heavy fuel oil	251.33	266.82	3.07
3	Renewable energy	84.27	39.27	0.82
4	Coal	538.00	551.20	31.39
5	Licensee (diesel)	13.19	0	0
6	Imported	416.50	448.50	16.09
	Total	2,282.99	2635.49	100

Source: Electricity Authority of Cambodia (2018).



Climate change's work

Climate change's work

**Capacity building
and case
documentation**



Climate change's work

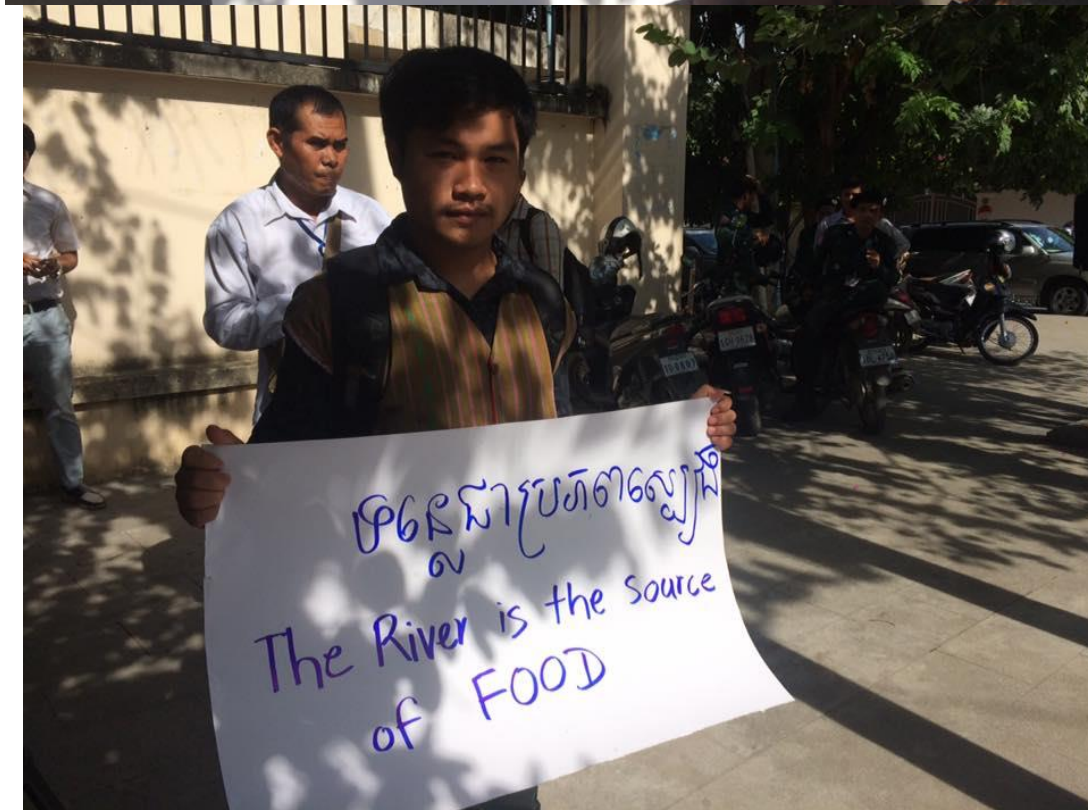
Sugarcane case in PVH

Training local documenters



Climate change's work

Sesan II: Hydro power dam



A pagoda from the original Kbal Romeas commune, which had been painted by visiting artists after the community moved out, in Stung Treng province on September 22, 2020. (Danielle Keeton-Olsen/VOD)



Challenges

- Restriction on right to assembly, meeting and group gathering
- Intimidation and accused of political motives, against development, secession
- Closely surveillance from the local authorities
- Lack access to information of the projects
- EIA
- Lack of consultation
- Government ignorance



Our Techniques and Strategies

- Capacity building on human rights, environmental law (national and international), and community organizing
- Raise awareness on threats to community members
- Case documentation
- Information sharing (project info, pressure points, etc.)
- Work closely with partners and networks at grassroots, national and regional



Our Techniques and Strategies

Best practice for our colleagues:

Social cohesion: (shared values, vision, culture, strong traditional practice, strong solidarity etc.)

GROUPS STICKING TOGETHER



Round 2

Hopeful Outlook of climate action

- Yeak Loam is both a sacred lake and community's name.
- Officially recognized as a Yeak Laom Protected Area in August 1998
- Signed long-term contract giving the right for indigenous Tom poun to manage the lake's area for 25 years



Hopeful Outlook of climate action

In 2017, the Ratanakiri governor told community to give the lake to a company for investment

The project was focused on constructing big buildings around the lake, casino, cable car, Karaoke and cutting down the forest.



Hopeful Outlook of climate action

Tom poun community including elders, women, men and youth (99.99 % of them) have strongly opposed the project



“To us, Yeak Laom Lake is our heritage. It is something we inherited from our ancestors, and it is our role to protect it for future generations. It is what we are proud of. It is not something to give away.”

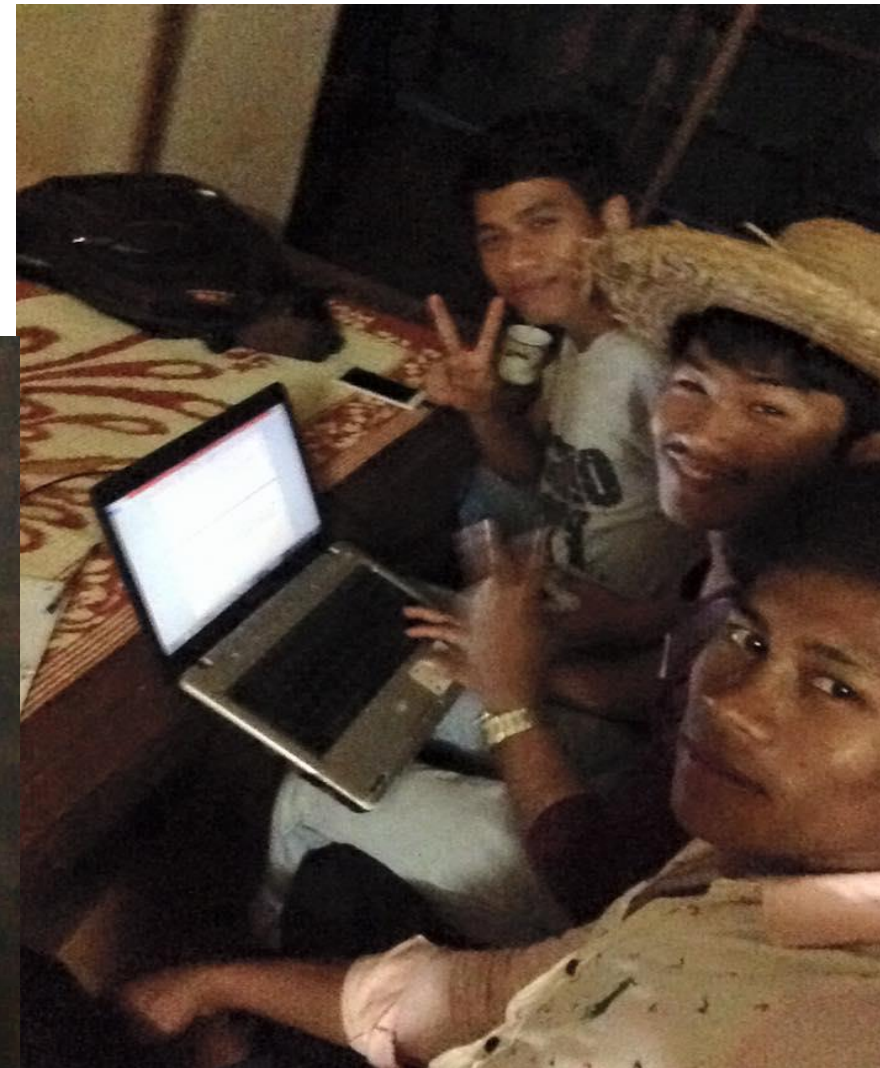
Hopeful Outlook of climate

action have done?

Social cohesion and strong solidarity

through

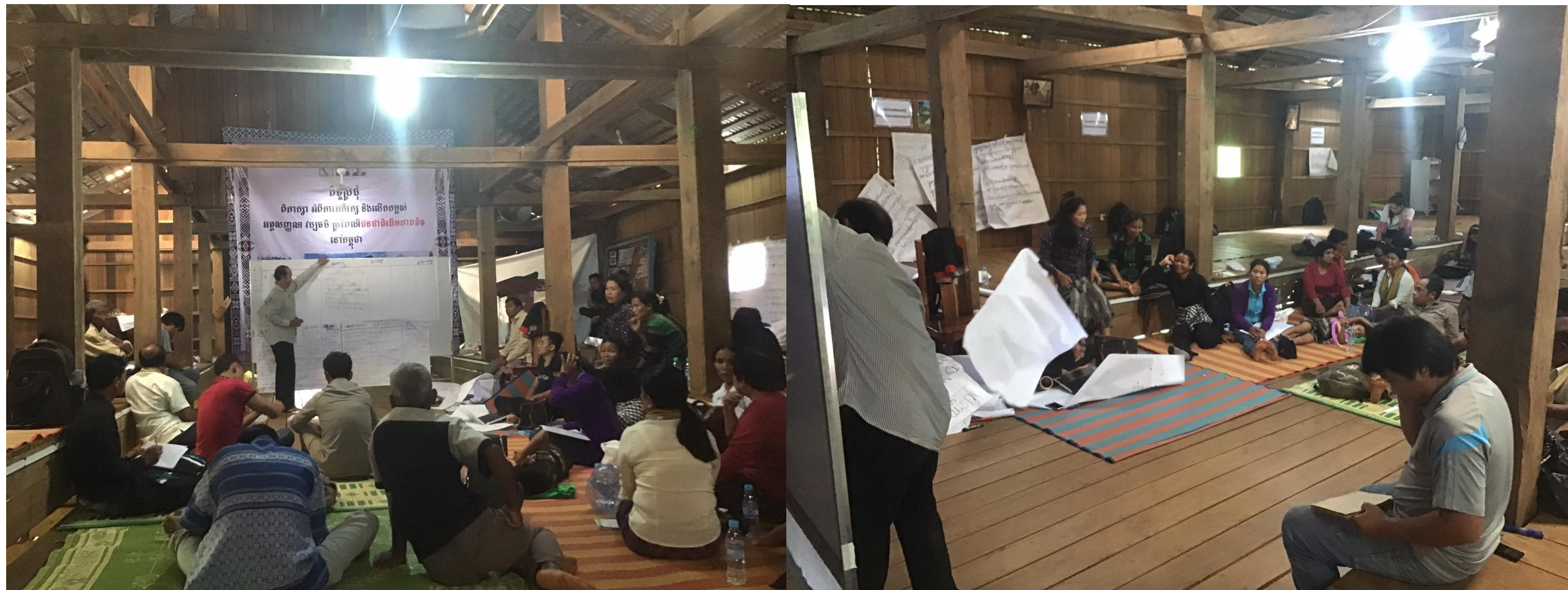
Capacity building, informed issues,
threats and future impacts



Hopeful Outlook of climate

action have done?

Exchange with other communities on cultural values



Hopeful Outlook of climate

Youth **action**



Hopeful Outlook of climate action

National July 4, 2018

Prime Minister denies Chinese investment for Yeak Laom Lake

Ven Rathavong / Khmer Times /



Hopeful Outlook of climate action

What I want to share with all of you that the community is not afraid of fighting against the development project that harms to their culture, identity, cemetery and spiritual site, livelihood etc.

Even though, the governor threatened to arrest all people who against the project, they are not afraid of and dared to tell the governor that they can go to the jail together.

This is called social cohesion and strong solidarity

Believe in people's power

**You're awesome!
Thank you!**

